

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

1 - 11. (Canceled)

12. (Presently amended) A method of coating a surface, comprising applying the composition of claim ~~1~~16 to the surface by electrophoretic deposition to create a coated surface and applying another coating to the coated surface before the applied composition is cured.

13-14. (Canceled).

15. (Presently amended) The electrocoat material of claim ~~14~~16 wherein the at least one binder (A) comprises at least one self crosslinking binder ~~and at least one externally crosslinking binder~~.

16. (Presently Amended) A storage stable composition, which is 5 to 35% by weight solids, comprising:

(A) at least one binder comprising at least one group that is a potentially cationic ammonium group and/or cationic ammonium group, and one or more reactive functional groups which comprise hydroxyl groups and undergo thermal crosslinking reactions,

(B) at least one crosslinking agent that comprises a blocked polyisocyanate,

(C) from 0.2 to 5% by weight, based on solids in the composition, of a bismuth subsalicylate compound having an empirical formula of  $C_7H_5O_4Bi$  that is water-insoluble and pulverulent, wherein the bismuth subsalicylate (C) has a bismuth content of from 56.5 to 60% by weight; and

(D) pigments selected from the group consisting of color pigments, effect pigments, electrically conductive pigments, magnetically shielding pigments, fluorescent pigments, extender pigments, anticorrosion pigments, organic pigments, inorganic pigments, and mixtures comprising at least one of the foregoing.

17. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 16 wherein the composition is the product of combining a dispersion comprising the binder and crosslinking agent with a pigment paste comprising the bismuth subsalicylate compound that is mixed and milled with the pigment.

18. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 17 wherein the composition comprises bismuth salt consisting of the bismuth subsalicylate compound.

19. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 18 further comprising a grinding resin.

20. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 19 wherein the grinding resin is an epoxy-amine adduct that is a product of mixing and milling the pigment in combination with the bismuth subsalicylate.